



For Immediate Release

WHISTLING GARDENS Botanical Gardens Designated a 'Canada 150 Garden Experience' *"First Day of Spring Introduces Special Recognition, Launching First of Many 2017 Sesquicentennial Celebrations"*

(Wilsonville, Norfolk County Ontario Canada - March 20, 2017) Whistling Gardens located in Norfolk County "Ontario's Garden" is the proud recipient of a 'Canada 150 Garden Experience' designation, awarded by the Canadian Garden Council in collaboration with the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association.

In celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial, 150 gardens and garden experiences across the country were jury-selected to receive the 'Canada 150 Garden Experience' designation – highlighting Whistling Gardens as one of 150 garden ways to celebrate Canada's birthday year.

Gardens define our Canadian aesthetic

At the awards ceremony, held in March of this year at the North American Garden Tourism Conference in Toronto, Alexander Reford, President of the Canadian Garden Council said, *"Canada has a long-standing garden culture. From First Nations gardens that were here long before settlers arrived, to the enormous variety of gardens that every culture has brought to this country since Confederation, gardens – from modest kitchen and community gardens to celebrated botanical and public gardens – have played a role in defining and developing our Canadian aesthetic and quality of life."*

"We are now connecting to the international garden community and their visitors through this designation as a result of our garden industry association's efforts. As a newer experience located in an intimate rural hamlet, being recognized along side of Canada's iconic larger gardens continues our growth momentum and desire to achieve an economic driver status for our county. Our Canada 150 Garden Sesquicentennial events will be revealed very soon, which includes a Canada \$150 Garden Centre Shopping Spree, Peony Festival introducing over 1,000+ varieties for the 1st time "North America's largest public collection", Peony Photo Contest, new family/children's garden classes/tours and a special garden social on June 24th," Darren Heimbecker, Owner Whistling Gardens.

To view the full list of 'Canada 150 Garden Experience' designation winners, visit the Canada's Garden Route website www.canadagardenroute.ca As the 2017 garden-visiting season commences, we at Whistling Gardens can't think of a better honour with which to celebrate the birthday of Our Home and Native Land than being named a 'Canada 150 Garden Experience'.

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For more information, media only, please contact:

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GARDEN AWARDS & Recognition:

2017 Canada 150 Garden Experience Designation - North American Garden Tourism Conference
2016 Best Botanical Gardens of The Year – Toronto Star, Sonia Day National Canadian Garden Columnist/Multi Award Winning Author
Canada's Best New Garden Experience – Canadian and International Garden Tourism Awards
Sustainable Tourism Ambassador of The Year Award – Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation in partnership with Norfolk County
VOTED: Top 10 Amazing Places of Norfolk County
Readers Choice Award: Best Local Tourist Attraction/Best Wedding Facility
"Home to North America's Largest Public Peony Collection"